

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney of record James Slattery on December 04, 2008.
3. Claims 6 and 7 are dependent on claim 1.
4. Claims 38 and 39 are dependent on claim 33.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 1, 6-33, and 38-53** are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 33 are allowed in view of Applicant's arguments filed on November 13, 2008.

Claims 1 and 33 are allowed because the closest prior art, Sorensen (US 2002/0061009) teaches a system and method for determining whether to

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establish a connection between a first node and a second node in an ad-hoc network includes the step of sending from the first node to the second node a first message, where the first message includes a network identifier and a point of attachment identifier, and Fontana (US 2003/0117946) teaches a method for protecting RPR networks of extended topology, in particular RPR Ring-to-Ring and Meshed Backbone networks having a number of RPR rings interconnected, alone or in combination, the limitations of claims 1 and 33 as set forth above.

But Sorensen and Fontana fail to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in combination, the features of appending a plurality of control bit fields to a packet payload for routing the packet from its source to its destination, wherein the control bit fields comprise a relay bit field, a dirty bit field, a broadcast bit field, a source address field and a destination address field as set forth in claims 1 and 33.

Dependent Claims 6-32, and 38-53 are allowable for the same reason as set forth above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8131. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles N. Appiah can be reached on 571-272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Michael Vu/
Examiner
AU-2617

/Charles N. Appiah/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617